(a) whether it is a fact that patriotic songs and programmes get a lesser time on Doordarshan and Radio as compared to other sundry programmes like feature films, film lyrics, dance and drama;

(b) if so, what is the percentage of time devoted in patriotic programmes on the whole in a month; and

(c) whether Government propose to reschedule and redesign the Doordarshan and Radio programmes to ensure greater time to patriotic theme?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA) : (a) No Sir. Patriotic songs and programmes are adequately covered by Doordarshan and Radio. Patriotic theme is a major criteria in the selection and broadcast of programmes.

(b) Such information is not kept centrally in a compiled form.

(c) The rescheduling and redesigning of the programmes of All India Radio and Doordarshan is done on a continuing basis keeping in view national priority, the viewer's/listener's interest and communication needs.

Pollution free battery propelled public transport

1087. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have experimented with the use of battery propelled public conveyance to eradicate the pollution in Delhi caused by public transport;

(b) If so, what is the outcome of such experiments; and

(c) whether Government propose to take up this project on large scale and use/introduce pollution free public transport system in all metropolitan cities?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN) : (a) to (c) Delhi Energy Development Agency (DEDA) has been operating 101 battery-operated vehicles in Delhi, as an experimental demonstration programme. These vehicles ply on different routes from 5 charging stations. These vehicles have a limited range after each recharge and are also prone to breakdowns due to overloading. There is no proposal at present to introduce such projects in other metropolitan cities.

Meeting of Newsprint Advisory Committee

1088. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a meeting of Newsprint Advisory Committee has been held at New Delhi recently;

(b) if so, what are the details of discussions held;

(c) whether some suggestions have been received by Government during the meeting;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(e) what action Government proposes to take to implement such suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROARCASTING AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. UPENDRA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir. Details of discussions held, suggestions received during the meeting and action proposed to be taken are contained in the Annexure.